

## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 25, 2005**

**PRESENT:** Shawn Costello, James Gage, David Hurley, Jesse Amsel, Glenn Eberly and Walter Moody (arr. 7:43 PM)

**ABSENT:** None

### **STAFF**

**PRESENT:** Reanna Goodreau, Recording Secretary

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Costello called the Ellington Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE**

### **III. NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **1. Open Space Plan—Status**

Chairman Costello asked for comments from the commission. He stated that he is fine with the Plan as long as the name is changed to “Plan of Conservation” instead of “Open Space Plan.”

Commissioner Gage expressed his concern with the Plan. His concerns included that the plan was too long, it contained errors, it was not a plan of conservation, it didn’t define areas to protect, there was no mission statement, and it included an out-dated inventory map. He noted that the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) plan calls out conservation focus areas and the State plan defines areas to conserve. He wants to include different “belts,” such as a farm belt, in the plan and show the areas on the map.

Commissioner Hurley and Chairman Costello disagreed about including certain parcels or areas for conservation. They noted that the State and CRCOG are looking regionally.

The commission discussed what could be done to improve the Plan. They decided it would be a good idea to update the inventory to reflect all town-owned properties. They want to review the goals and objectives to re-work and reduce them. The commission agreed to have comments

prepared for November meeting. Reanna Goodreau stated that once the commission agrees to the changes they want, she will ask the consultant for a quote.

**TABLED TO THE NOVEMBER 29, 2005 MEETING.**

2. Evaluation of Town-Owned Properties

Ms. Goodreau stated that she had created a list of town-owned properties based on the Assessor's data. Chairman Costello requested that staff create a binder of information for each parcel on the list. He stated that the municipal facilities do not need to be included on the list.

**TABLED TO THE NOVEMBER 29, 2005 MEETING.**

3. Development of Parcel Selection for Upcoming DEP Grant

Commissioner Gage stated that the DEP is not making grant money available for November, but there may be money available in the spring. The commission discussed the need to target parcels for a grant that may come available. Commissioner Hurley stated that most people aren't willing to discuss a possible sale of land unless they know there is money available for the Town to purchase that land.

**TABLED TO THE NOVEMBER 29, 2005 MEETING.**

**V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

1. Discussion of the FY 2006-2007 Capital Improvements Budget Requests

Ms. Goodreau explained that last fiscal year the commission requested money in the capital improvement budget for the purchase of lands for open space purposes, but that it was cut. Commissioner Gage stated that the Board of Finance was in favor of bonding for open space, but nothing ever came of it after it was cut from the capital improvements budget. The commission discussed what should be requested and determined that \$2 million every other fiscal year was appropriate.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE COMMISSION REQUESTED THAT STAFF SUBMIT A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET REQUEST FOR \$2 MILLION FOR FY 2006-2007, FY 2008-2009, & FY 2010-2011.**

2. Approval of the September 27, 2005 Meeting Minutes

**MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (AMSEL) AND PASSED (ABSTAINED: MOODY & EBERLY) TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2005 MEETING MINUTES.**

3. Correspondence:

- a. Letter from State of CT Council on Environmental Quality, dated 9/05

Chairman Costello requested a copy of the report for each member.

- b. Letter to PZC from Attorney Dorian Famiglietti, dated 10/6/05

Commissioner Gage explained that he had raised objections to the appraisal because it was 1 year and 7 months old. He noted that the PZC required an updated appraisal as a condition of approval, which resulted in a higher appraisal.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOVED (HURLEY), SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN  
THE MEETING AT 8:38 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Reanna Goodreau  
Recording Secretary